How complacent are we when unjust economic, political and religious systems oppress the powerless? Are we willing to take up the prophetic task, to speak out against injustice? When disaster comes, where do we find hope that God has come with us, even into our tragic exile? Most of all, how can we learn to treasure above all else the wonder of God's presence with us?

Respond to each of the following questions in 5-10 sentences each.

1. As a teacher in a Catholic school, how have I been/been called to be prophetic within my school community?

My experience of speaking out against injustice had to do with a colleague who was being persecuted for being a homosexual. When it was my perception that my school community had taken steps to force her out of our school and board, I spoke up publically against the hurtfulness of her treatment. I said clearly that this is not what Jesus would have done.

2. What challenges have I or a colleague encountered in my efforts to speak out against injustice? I faced professional peril as the actions were mostly accepted as necessary. Ironically, I was shut down by the union representative who was trying to work out an exit deal for this person. I was reprimanded by my supervisor for taking the stand.

***Based on your readings, consider how Jesus stands within the prophetic tradition. What are the implications for me in a Catholic school?***

Jesus stands as the one true prophet. He not only spoke for God…he himself was divine. He gave his life to deliver God’s message – he made the ultimate sacrifice knowing all along how it would end. Jesus also LIVED his prophesy. In other words, Jesus modeled the life of a “person of God” so that there would be no doubt, later, how he was instructing us to live together as brothers and sisters. One needed only observe his actions to understand how to work towards eternal life – luckily, Jesus also spoke to us in a way that made sense. He told us stories, he harked back to prophets of old, and he even told us off when needed! He used every way possible to make his message clear.

In a Catholic school, I need to be brave enough to represent and model being a person of God – a truly welcoming “Catholic” Christian. I need to also be vigilant and non -complacent – I have to sometimes be ready to seek out injustice and be willing to right the wrongs and help others (my students and colleagues) to recognize and do the same.